

The Northeast Ohio Recorder

July/Aug/Sept 2018

<http://www.area54.org>

Volume XXV, Issue 7

"Let us remember that great legion who still suffer from alcoholism and who are still without hope. Let us, at any cost or sacrifice, so improve our communication with all these that they may find what we have found - a new life of freedom under God."
A.A. Co-Founder, Bill W., February 1961, From: "The Shape of Things to Come", *I Am Responsible: The Hand of A.A.*, © A. A. Grapevine, Reprinted with permission

A Word From Our Delegate

Hello to all in Area 54:

I was sent a loving invitation to give a presentation during the 68th General Service Conference. I had the responsibility of composing a presentation on "Participation in All of A.A. – Is My Triangle Balanced?" I would like to share with you some of my thoughts and the thoughts of others that have journeyed down this path of recovery.



Participation In All of A.A – Is My Triangle Balanced

In AA, this symbol represents the three parts of our program (recovery, unity, service) which are the solutions to the three-part disease of alcoholism (physical, mental and spiritual). The circle surrounding the triangle represents Alcoholics Anonymous as a whole. The equilateral triangle is the strongest construction structure known to us. Because all three sides are equal, the triangle represents the balance required among all 36 principles in order for us to stay sober. The body should be triangular, stable; the mind circular, open.

The triangle represents the means for generation of good energy, and is the most stable physical posture. The circle symbolizes serenity and perfection, and the source of unlimited potential. Together they represent the perfect union of mind and body. (*Barefoot Windwalker*)

Recovery: The 12 Steps are known as Recovery and it is the entire foundation of our program. Consequently it is the bottom of the triangle, holding up Unity and Service. There are three basic principles of our Spiritual Program of Action that can be summed up in a formula of three words: Awareness, Honesty, and Responsibility. I realize that for this formula to work, I have to apply it to my entire life. There is no compartment of my life that can be immune from the application of these concepts. They are to be applied equally to my inner life, my outer life, to my personal life and my public life, to my work life, my social life, to my family relationships, to my business relationships, and my personal friendships. Recovery is absorbed rather than learned, caught rather than taught. For me this is my recovery foundation.

Unity: The concept of unity first suggests joining a home group and actually participating in the meetings. (not just sit in a chair) The group and its members are responsible for making sure that the door to the meeting is open and there for the newcomer. Tradition 1 (Long Form): "Each member of Alcoholics Anonymous is but a small part of a great whole. A.A. must continue to live or most of us will surely die. Hence our common welfare comes first. But individual welfare follows close afterward".

Joining the home group and actually participating in the group conscious meetings does not mean we will agree on everything. That is when I understood that agreeing to disagree is acknowledging another person's opinion. This is Tradition 2: "For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience". For me this is a practice of acceptance. Tradition 4 also plays a big part in Unity – "Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or A.A. as a whole." This affords us not to lose our group individuality, However in order to follow the 12 Traditions our group should not do things that will affect A.A. as a whole. In following these Traditions we will remain unified.

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While AA Structure is important and can be identified as a result of, or reflect our unity, even when AA is not structured and is apparently completely fractious our principles and common interests can and do unite us. Hence the AA Declaration of Unity: "This we owe to A.A.'s future: To place our common welfare

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OUR LEGACIES OF RECOVERY, UNITY, AND SERVICE

I am heartened by the amount of content the area has allowed me to include in this issue of the Recorder. For those who have online access, we have included all Advisory Actions, Failed Recommendations and Floor Actions, and Committee Considerations in the summer issue. We have also included a fascinating article on the history behind early publicity within and outside of AA. All told, 31 pages of fact-filled and informational content about how your AA dollars are being spent. Do you have a voice and a vote in this process? If your home group is not sending a GSR to the area assembly on a regular basis, you are abrogating your voice in AA to some other 'yahoo' bunch of drunks from THAT OTHER MEETING...

Sending a representative to Intergroup is not the same thing. An important AA entity, but intergroups and central offices do not serve the same function as your area general service.

Want to learn about what's happening in AA beyond the church basement steps? Curious how other groups are handling problems that are common to most groups? Want to find out about those great anniversary dinners in that far away district on the east side, west side, and the countryside? We announce those at area, too.

We learn about the Twelve Traditions and the Twelve Concepts at our area assembly, workshops, and other fun events. Pot luck is often included.

Ever wonder about that alphabet-soup of acronyms that the oldtimers throw around over coffee? Come on out the area and find out—don't keep your head in the sand! Contrary to the curmudgeons, general service is not about politics. But you'll never know for yourself unless you come check us out. Grab a carload of running buddies, your sponsor, and some pigeons

and make a short road trip to Brunswick on the third Sunday of most months. We meet at the 12 Step Club on US Route 42, just south of SR 303, starting promptly at 2 pm. You can find a schedule of upcoming assemblies and workshops at <http://www.area54.org/pdfs/Area54Schedule.pdf>

Interested in corrections work? Or public information, cooperation with professionals, treatment, Grapevine, or literature? We've got it all at the area events.

Are you bored in meetings sometimes; do you wonder if this is all there is, now that you've been sober a couple years? You must not be paying attention—because the work of the area goes on 24/7/365, helping to make 12th Step work possible in corners of AA you haven't even thought about yet.

Did you know that the Big Book *Alcoholics Anonymous* is now available in almost 75 foreign languages?

Were you aware that a new book is being published by your headquarters in New York called, *Our Great Responsibility: A Selection of Bill W.'s General Service Conference Talks*?

This, and so much more, awaits you. Join us and we shall be with you in the Sunlight of the Spirit.

~Your editor, Jeff

We welcome your service-related contributions, comments and questions. Send topic ideas or complaints to:
newsletter@area54.org



AREA OFFICER REPORTS

Be Encouraging in Service Work

(Continued from page 1)

first; to keep our fellowship united. For on A.A. unity depend our lives, and the lives of those to come”.

Service: “Therefore, an A.A. service is anything whatsoever that helps us to reach a fellow sufferer—ranging all the way from the Twelfth Step itself to a phone call or sitting down for a cup of coffee and listening to another alcoholic,. The sum total of all these services is our Third Legacy of Service.” (Bill W., *Legacy of Service*)

“Services include meeting places, hospital cooperation, and intergroup offices; they mean pamphlets, books, and good publicity of almost every description. They call for committees, delegates, trustees, and conferences. And, not to be forgotten, they need voluntary money contributions from within the Fellowship. Vital to A.A.’s growth these services, whether performed by individuals, groups, areas, or A.A. as a whole, are utterly vital to our existence and growth.” In order for AA to continue to grow and keep the doors open for the newcomer, I have to take the responsibility of carrying the message of A.A. Alcoholics Anonymous will always need people to explain the A.A structure to all who wish to be informed or helped. This means, answering inquiries, fostering new Groups and distributing our standard books and publications. We shall also need others who can research important questions of our general policy or A.A. Traditions. (*Third Legacy Pamphlet, October 1950*)

I have a responsibility if I want to stay sober and give back what was so freely given to me. This is where I apply the responsibility pledge: “I am Responsible. When Anyone, Anywhere Reaches Out For Help, I Want The Hand Of A.A. To Always Be There. And For That, **I Am Responsible**”!

Jamie B., Delegate Panel 67/Area 54 - Northeast Ohio



In recovery, especially within service work, it’s been repeatedly said that only a “small number of people are doing the work.” Inside the small numbers of these folks there is an even smaller percentage of folks that are consistent with “doing the work” (They keep coming back!!). So, since I’ve been actively a part of general service work on the area and state level since 2008, I must ask myself, am I being encouraging about “General Service Work?” What am I sharing, whether it’s with my facial expressions or action and words about service work? I realize that all these factors are equally important when trying to share about general service work.

During the past few weeks, I have led a meeting or two. In one of the comment, a woman said, “I thought you were mean, at times you look so mean.” Just recently a past panel member made mention of my facial expressions during the area assembly and how stern I look. The thought being it doesn’t look like I’m enjoying service work and how could that attract other to stay involved? Being a servant for the Area is work that I thoroughly enjoy, even when it’s trying. So, I say, don’t let my stern look sway you to the negative. Service work means so much me and I am grateful you allow me to serve the Area.

When I think how my words and actions can be encouraging, I think about the ones that came before me. Many shared by example the importance with speaking with love and tolerance, even in the difficult moments. For me that means “I must think before I speak”, before I say or do something that could detrimental. I must take a moment, gather my thoughts and then say something that will be helpful and not hurtful. The same applies to my actions too. This is what people see and notice. The example was set by past service members about taking the time to visit and connect with other districts and meetings. Matter of fact, a visit occurred in my district, that was significant in beginning my journey into service at the area level. The delegate of panel 57 showed up at a district meeting to share the importance of general service and the flame was stoked, and I have been a part of service work ever since. I truly believe being there counts, something that I observe others do.

For me, service work has been so rewarding and there is even more to do and learn. I will continue to follow the good examples that I have seen and heard, letting everyone know that service work can be worthwhile.

Love and Service, Shyrl B. Alternate Delegate Panel 67/ Area 54

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Grapevine Daily Quote: May 14, 2018

“Why dwell on what you can’t do? ... Why not concentrate on what you can do and do it?”

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AREA OFFICER AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

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When I read this quote the other day it really made sense. What I get from this is when I finally accepted that I was right where I was needed to be and all that I had been through, I needed to go through so that I could be who I am today. Everything I am today is because of my higher power and our fellowship. I truly do believe that my higher power has a plan and had this plan for me way before I was born. Once I accepted his will and did his plan my life became better. It's kind of like watching tv shows of people buying their summer homes on a lake or somewhere remote and sitting back feeling sorry for yourself for not having that opportunity. It's basically dwelling on those should of/could of moments in life where if we would of done this or that. If we are to have certain opportunities god would put it in our path to accomplish said opportunities.

So, for me I do what the quote says and to not to focus on things I can't do (I can't change the past) and to concentrate on those things I can do and do them (do everything I can to have the best rest of a life as I can), although sometimes it's hard I do the best I can. I have true gratitude for our program and to my higher power for saving my life and I will be forever grateful for the opportunities I have been blessed with thus far. I will remain teachable always and remember the analogy "when one door closes another one opens" and to be patient for when it does. God's plan for us will happen when he wants them to happen, after all, they're his plans.

Tina C., Area 54 Chairperson

I recently participated on a service panel for an AA meeting. I was asked to talk about my service experience and my service position as Area 54 treasurer. When I stated that I was their Area 54 treasurer, I could see the audiences' facial expressions go blank. I nearly panicked but then I recalled what I thought before I knew what the Area 54 treasurer was. When I first heard the term, I knew the person was a treasurer, but 'Area 54' seemed like a description of a mysterious desolate isolated place. That thought gave me just the spark I needed to explain what the Area 54 treasurer does.

I explained that the home group is the bottom line for self-support of the home group and AA as whole. I told the group about the self-support packet and I highlighted recommended contributions that should go to the four entities. I explained that contributions to Area 54 support Area Assembly meetings, workshops and functions. I informed the group on how homegroup contributions allow Area 54 to send its panel members to other Areas' Mini-Conferences and our delegate to the annual General Service Conference in New York. Of course, I also shared how I keep track of the contributions and how I send thank letters to acknowledge each contribution that I receive on behalf of Area 54.

I then told them about how home group contributions support AA at the world level giving the General Service Office what it needs to ensure that there are plenty of Big Books and AA literature to help the sick and suffering worldwide. As I came to a close, I realized that as long as I share information to empower home groups to have a voice in A.A., people want to know more. I have to remain willing to share my experience to pass on what has freely been given to me. Just as it is in sobriety "many may need it, but it is for those who want it." If I do my part, God will do the rest.

Dawn J., Area Treasurer

Wow service...several months ago God had me volunteer to be the Recording Secretary for the Area. This is quite a experience. I am learning more about me...(what I am willing to do).

No matter what, the pride of being able to use my God-given skills (typing/speaking) is very fulfilling. My parents started me off at an early age....sitting at meetings and taking notes (God has a real sense of humor).

I travel and carry the message...does it get better?...."YES".

One last point, I have not driven since I've been sober. Not driving..... never stopped me from drinking...and I now travel when called upon.

So...if lack of transportation...is keeping you from service then hopefully this statement will transmit hope...to you.

Love & Service, Beverly F, - Recording Secretary – Area 54

I am the Treatment Chair for Area 54, and so proud to be of service. As a Trusted Servant, I visit Treatment Facilities, throughout the Area, trying to set up Bridging The Gap programs...which is getting the person in Treatment, upon release from Treatment straight to the doors of AA. I've been going into the Treatment Facilities, talking to the Director and Staff explaining what AA is and what AA does, explaining our singleness of purpose. I have visited a lot of facilities in Cleveland with a welcome from all.

Example: I recently visited the Hispanic Center on West 25th, in Cleveland Ohio. The Staff was receptive of having AA in their facility.

Thank you,

Your Trusted Servant – Michael S. – Treatment Chair – Area 54

ADVISORY ACTIONS OF THE 68th GENERAL SERVICE CONF.

The following recommendations were approved by the 68th General Service Conference:

Agenda

It was recommended that:

The theme for the 2019 General Service Conference be: "Our Big Book – 80 Years, 71 Languages."

The following be presentation/discussion topics for the 2019 General Service Conference:
Yesterday's World – Our Legacies Begin Today's World – Demonstrating Integrity, Anonymity and Service
Tomorrow's World – Courage to be Vigilant

The following be the workshop topic for the 2019 General Service Conference: "Clarity of Purpose – Addressing the Needs of Our Meetings"

Archives

It was recommended that:

The proposed new publication, *Our Great Responsibility: A Selection of Bill W.'s General Service Conference Talks, 1951 – 1970* be approved with minor editorial changes.

Cooperation with the Professional Community

It was recommended that:

The text on page 9 of the pamphlet "A.A. as a Resource for the Health Care Professional" which currently reads:

Sharing experience as peers is the unique service Alcoholics Anonymous offers. In most instances, health

care professionals find A.A. members not only willing but eager to introduce newcomers to the A.A. program.

Be revised to read:

Sharing experience as peers is the unique service Alcoholics Anonymous offers. With no membership requirements beyond the desire to stop drinking, members are on an equal footing. What's important is getting the help that is needed, and in most instances, health care professionals find A.A. members not only willing but eager to introduce newcomers to the A.A. program.

The text on page 10 of the pamphlet "A.A. as a Resource for the Health Care Professional" which currently reads:

A.A. is listed in most telephone directories or

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Let's Go Green!

Area 54 General Service is inviting you to Go Green! Get your Area flyers, information, and an EXPANDED web-only version of the *Northeast Ohio Recorder*. All the information that comes to your USPS mailbox now can come to your inbox.

The *NEOH Recorder* you're reading now is 8 pages long—that's the page limit to keep postage weight within our budget and so that it can be folded to fit in an envelop. But we have so much more Area 54 news for you! The web version of this issue of *NEOHR* is 31 pages packed with experience, strength, and hope.

Let Dustin S., your Area 54 Mailing Secretary, know that you would like to save a tree or three (and save the area some \$Green\$) with a message at mailingsecretary@area54.org

Please note: if you do nothing, you will still get your Area mail by USPS and by email (if we have your email address) as you always have.

Expanded Content (31 pages!) and a Color-Enhanced version of this newsletter is now online at <http://area54.org/NEOHRecorder.html>

ADVISORY ACTIONS OF THE 68th GENERAL SERVICE CONF.

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local newspapers, and a phone call is all that is needed for help.

Be revised to read:

Alcoholics Anonymous can be found on the Internet at aa.org and in most telephone directories by looking for "Alcoholics Anonymous." Additionally, online

A.A. meetings are available, which members of the military and others often use when they are in places where there are no meetings nearby.

A new section be added beginning on page 16 of the pamphlet "Members of the Clergy Ask About Alcoholics Anonymous," between the sections "Why Would the Clergy be Concerned with A.A.?" and "Do Any of the Clergy Belong to A.A.?" with text as follows:

What If You Are a Chaplain in the Military?

Like other members of the clergy, military chaplains are often the "safest" people a problem drinker can approach. Chaplains can help direct alcoholics to available

A.A. meetings, either on or near the base. Additionally, if no meetings are available, chaplains may be able to connect interested alcoholics with other A.A. materials, such as books and pamphlets or A.A.'s magazines, Grapevine and La Viña. Online meetings are also available for those members of the military who may be deployed, and chaplains can help get them connected electronically through correspondence groups. (A.A.'s General Service Office can provide information on such resources.)

Text be added to the pamphlet "If You Are a Professional..." on page 4, first paragraph, to read (additions in **bold**):

Meetings: At the heart of the program are its meetings, which are conducted autonomously by A.A. groups in cities and towns throughout the world, **even in jails, institutions and on military bases.**

Text be added to the pamphlet "If You Are a Professional..." on page 4, last section, to read (additions in **bold**):

Referrals from Judicial, Health Care, **Military**, or other Professionals

Today numerous A.A. members come to us from judicial, health care, **military** or other professionals.

Text be added to the pamphlet "If You Are a Professional..." in the last full paragraph on page 5, to read (additions in **bold**):

Or you can contact the General Service Office (G.S.O.) of Alcoholics Anonymous for help and information. G.S.O.'s A.A. website aa.org can aid in finding local resources. **Additionally, online A.A. meetings are available, which members of the military and others often use when they are in places where there are no meetings nearby.**

Continued online; see below

To read all the advisory actions and committee considerations, go to <http://area54.org/NEOHRecorder.html>

UPCOMING DATES FOR THE AREA AND BEYOND

NOTE THE DATE

July 15 Area Assembly	GV Lit sales 2:00 pm
August 20 GSR/DCM Workshop	2:00 pm
September 16 Area Assembly	2:00 pm
October 21 Area Assembly (area elections)	GV Lit sales 2:00 pm
November 12 Gratitude Sunday	GV Lit sales TBA
2019—Panel 69	
January 20 Area Assembly	GV Lit sales 2:00 pm
February 17 GSR/DCM Workshop	2:00 pm
March 17 Area Assembly	2:00 pm

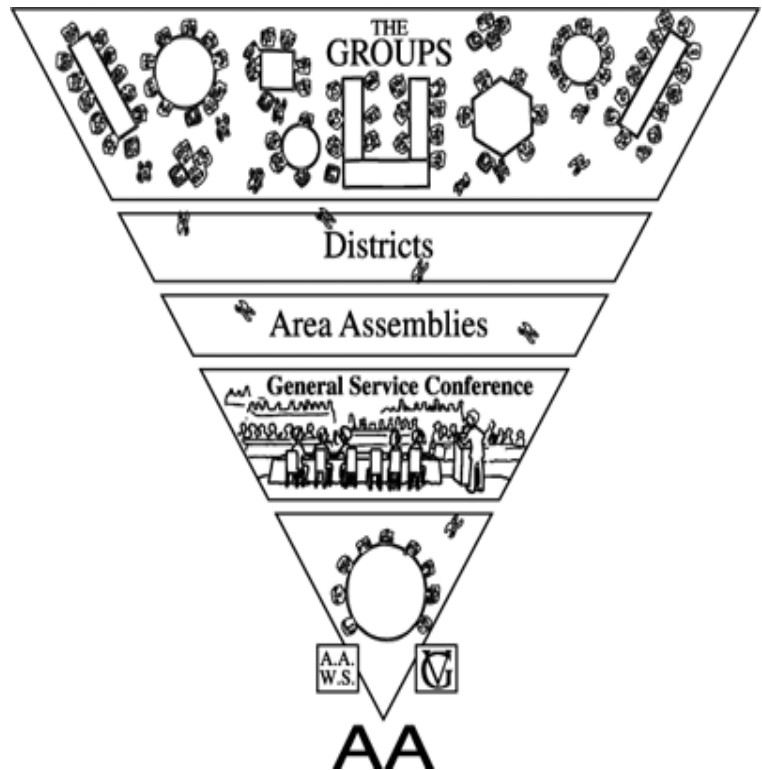
OUTSIDE OUR AREA

April -21-28 – New York, NY 68 th General Service Conference	
May 5 – Columbus, OH Ohio State Convention Planning Meeting	11:00 am
July 27-29, Perrysburg OH 62 nd Ohio State Convention	
August 24-26, Kalamazoo, MI East Central Regional Conference	
November 3 – Columbus, OH Ohio State Convention Planning Meeting	11:00 am

Self-Support



Next time you're at a meeting, try putting \$2.00 in the Basket. At your Home Group, try giving \$5.00 to keep it strong and FULLY self-supporting!



Unless otherwise noted, Area Assemblies & Workshops are held at The 12 Step Recovery Club, 1480 Pearl Rd., Brunswick, OH (on 42 about 1/4 mile south of route 303 Phone: (330) 273-7216



RECOVERY, UNITY AND SERVICE

These are the Three Legacies of our A.A. experience. Our leaders are but trusted servants, they do not govern. God, expressed through our group conscience, is our sole authority. World Service is the heart of our Third Legacy. Our meetings are informative and educational. They are held so that the Committee Members, GSRs and all interested members may be better equipped to carry the message of World Service back to their home groups and individual members, thus giving a better understanding to our purpose, our hopes, and our work.

Confidential Contact List

Your Trusted Servants Committee 67

Jamie B., Panel 67 Delegate
1339 Kent Dr., S-1
Brunswick, OH 44212
(216) 548-5410
e-mail: delegate@area54.org

Shyrl B., Alternate Delegate
PO Box 10344 (M)
Cleveland, OH 44110
(216) 702-0572
e-mail: altdelegate@area54.org

Tina C., Area Chair
29 S. Maryland St.
Youngstown, OH 44509
(330) 318-9168
e-mail: chair@area54.org

Dawn J., Treasurer
4121 Wilmington Rd.
S. Euclid, OH 44121
(216) 339-9301
e-mail: treasurer@area54.org

Beverly F., Recording Secretary
1336 Hird Ave. #1
Lakewood, OH 44107
(216) 624-9610
e-mail: recordingsecretary@area54.org

Dustin S., Mailing Secretary
1223 N. Howard St.
Akron, OH 44310
(330) 524-5833
e-mail: mailingsecretary@area54.org

Visit us at <http://www.area54.org>

Committee Chairpersons 2017-2018		
Accessibilities	Tim H.	(440) 415-2960
	1944 Jefferson Eagleville Rd.	accessibilities@area54.org
	Jefferson, OH 44047	
Archives	Edward U.	(216) 218-9752
	1324 Addison Rd., #3004	archives@area54.org
	Cleveland OH 44103	
Archivist	James T.	(216) 773-0207
	19104 Maple Heights Blvd.	archivist@area54.org
	Maple Hts., OH 44137	
Cooperation with the Professional Community	Ron O.	(330) 388-8316
	1232 Iona Ave.	ccc@area54.org
	Akron, OH 44314	
Correctional Facilities	Calvin L.	(216) 334-4594
	3571 Riedham Rd.	cf@area54.org
	Shaker Hts., OH 44120	
Finance	Mae R.	(216) 926-1238
	1259 Ansel Rd.	finance@area54.org
	Cleveland, OH 44108	
Floor Management	Brian J. C.	(216) 849-5131
	PO Box 31266	floormgmt@area54.org
	Independence, OH 44131	
Grapevine	Susan R.	(216) 407-6049
	POBox 8, 50 N. Maple St.	gvchair@area54.org
	Orwell, OH 44076	
Group Services	Mark P.	(216) 406-1169
	629 Wellesley Circle	groupservices@area54.org
	Avon Lake, OH 44012	
Hispanic Community Liaison	Wellington R.	(216) 287-6009
	209 East 216th Street	hispanicliaison@area54.org
	Euclid, OH 44113	
Literature	Dusty Samples	(330) 620-9642
	4414 Point Comfort Drive	literature@area54.org
	Akron, OH 44319	
NE OH Recorder Newsletter	Jeffrey Y.	(216) 496-7594
	1076 Woodview Rd	newsletter@area54.org
	Cleveland Hts., OH 44121	
OYPAA Liaison	Casey M.	(502) 640-1448
	4631 Deer Creek Ct, Apt 3	YPLiaison@area54.org
	Austintown, OH 44515	
Public Information	Robert M.	(216) 970-2333
	1367 Grantleigh Rd.	pi@area54.org
	South Euclid, OH 44121	
Registrar	Marilyn H.	(330) 749-0110
	703 Lincoln St.	registrar@area54.org
	Wooster, OH 44691	
Treatment Facilities	Michael S.	(330) 957-1942
	1670 Kingsley Ave	tf@area54.org
	Akron, OH 44313	
Website	Dan M.	(440)853-6768
	PO Box 264	info@area54.org
	Middlefield, OH 44062	